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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-third session
9 June to 3 July 2003
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 20
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 20, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 20)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 20 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in particular in the field of fostering development and integration of the countries with economies in transition in the context of the enlargement of the European Union. The focus on supporting and facilitating the efforts of this group of countries for their integration into the global economy was welcomed. It was suggested that ECE should continue to strengthen its role of providing technical assistance to this group of countries. It was also suggested that the enlargement of the European Union should lead ECE to consider refocusing its work.

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4. It was mentioned that ECE should set up regional mechanisms to ensure effective follow-up to United Nations international conferences, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the International Conference on Financing for Development.

5. The efforts of ECE to streamline its activities, in particular its meetings and publications, were welcomed, but it was suggested that a lot more could be done. It was noted that 75 outputs were proposed for deletion.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 20, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

7. **The Committee recommends that the Economic Commission for Europe further streamline its work in the light of the enlargement of the European Union in subprogrammes such as statistics, trade and investment, transport, tourism and the environment, and coordinate its work with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Commission in order to avoid duplication and overlap.**

8. **The Committee recommends that the General Assembly seek a much clearer formulation of how the establishment, growth, enlargement and cooperation partnerships of the European Union have affected the role and functions of ECE.**